



Københavns Universitet

Nordisk Forskningsinstitut
Afdeling for Dialektforskning
Njalsgade 136

DK-2300 København S

Telefon: + 45 35 32 85 00

Telefax: + 45 35 32 85 12

SE-nr: 22 13 43 10

e-mail: dansk-dialekt@hum.ku.dk
www.hum.ku.dk/dialekt

To: Joshua Fishman
From: Tore Kristiansen and Lillian Simonsen
Re: 80th birthday
Date: 10 September 2006

Dear Joshua

Many are the times when I have said to myself, and to my colleagues and students: – If there is one scholar within the field of language studies I feel a special kinship with, it is Joshua Fishman. This feeling of spiritual descent developed in me already from the beginning. I had left my native Norway in the early 1970's – at a time when the language issue was higher on the agenda than ever before in this uncommonly quarrelsome community of speakers – for Denmark (to get my Lillian), and thus got my linguistic education in a country where *Respect for the* (users of standard) *Language* was a much higher priority than *Respect for the Users* (of non-standard language). It gave me a genuine cultural shock, both as a user and student of language. The medicine that helped me through was repeated readings of whatever Fishman books and articles I could acquire. They gave me confidence that my perspective on language matters could not simply be dismissed as a 'Norwegian' disease – there was someone important, 'out there' on the international scene, who was in the business of language studies in order to make the world a better place for people to live. That was a great comfort and inspiration – that helped me find my way through to sociolinguistics. (Some 30 years later I had the pleasure to co-edit *The Sociolinguistics of Danish* as IJSL 159, 2003).

Lillian and I often think of the Shabbat evening with you and Gella in your lovely Palo Alto apartment.

Our very best wishes on the occasion of your 80th birthday!
Tore and Lillian